

Monday afternoon 24 October

My Dear Deborah - Last Saturday evening I had a bundle of letters from Boston one from Anne & yours to Caroline & self. except many thanks from all as well as from me. - I think you so on John Burroughs like a great pudding. I will first tell you we are all much as usual you will conceive at once how we are without saying more. - Your father & mother are now living in single blessedness, as I soon left them last Saturday morning with Henry coming in a covered Wagon, when he returned he brought out Lucretia & Miss Piper - who he walked to meeting with all day yesterday in a suspicious manner all the rest of the family keeping at a respectful distance, & he sat in the pew with her below - I cannot say it means any thing but it looked something. They leave for Boston to-morrow morning. I have lost my Journal ever since you left, or soon after & therefore cannot so well tell what has happened since I wrote to you, but I recollect it was before our second meeting - I will give you some account of that - It occurred the 26 of October. There was 28 I believe present - one or two not members - one of them Miss W. Blenheim - what she comes for I do not see - but she had it "about right" - the meeting was appointed at 3 o'clock - we waited some time for Mrs Perkins until they generally expressed their desire to go in as they thought she would not come - I had reason to think she would for I called there the same morning as she told me she should - this I mentioned, but they seemed determined she would not come, and I called on Phoebe Stetson to read a chapter which Miss Parker coming reluctant. a chapter from Esther I forgot which. Before it was finished Mr & Mrs Perkins & mother came - she walked in as if it had been a meeting of his own, & proceeded to read a chapt from James "Go to now ye rich men", then made some observations on the chapt which was strong meat, such as to say that corruptions must come some contended it could not without bloodshed - "we are not of that number, we have proof that it can - but what if it cannot - why let it come - corruptions must take place - It will. - I think I am afraid Miss Mary will think the slave-holders feelings will be hurt. We then made an abolition Prayer - If he only would make such an one, in his pulpit I would ask no more of him. I then rendered him the songs of the Lord - & told him there was sufficient number to sing & requested him to select one - He I believe never saw the book before - Mrs Ripfield said she would mention both to him "Georgia's Southern mountains" - He read it - & staid while the creek fish sang it most sweetly - they turned out root & branch. When Mr P. took leave, I took occasion to thank him for coming, & to tell him it was an unexpected pleasure - This I did to let Miss Mary know he was not invited, otherwise she would have thought he was in a manner compelled to come as I had mentioned I called there in the forenoon. - He left & we proceeded to business - first showing Mr. Stetson Secretary's motion, which he accepted in a most un-

gave us a memorandum. Then the corresponding Sec. read a letter
from the female Soc. at the North parish, one from Sam. Chapp-
man about the fair - & one from Maria about the Petition.
Then read the annual report. & it was really very good. He
told what we had done in the year, & it seemed to be more
than I thought for, & I was glad on Mary's account.
He then made a pathetic appeal to our feelings to do
more the year to come, & used the following language.
"Let every member of this society act in all respects as
she would be induced to do, if her father, her mother,
her child, her sister, or her brother was in slavery - then
& only then she would be doing what was required of her."
Giving passages of scripture such as "wherever ye meet these
men should do to you so even so to them." Remember them
that are in bonds &c. - In that it was a good thing &
I exalted that Mary heard it. It was accepted, & Mrs. J. D.
I mean Mrs. Perkins prepared to have it sent to the Libera-
tor, which she refused - she then chose the officers for the
year went the whole ticket. Then came some discussion
about the fair - settled any one should give that felt dis-
posed. Then a proposition to have a lecture before the society
carried - some talk about whether to have it afternoon or
evening - I spoke to it & tried to make a discussion any-
thing to get them to speak - settled for the evening & Mr. Smith
of the free church to be the man - the Records visited him - then
Mrs. Field moved to take a collection - I speak against
not that I cared much about it - yet I have thought that
the time had not yet come for collections to get people to hear
my mind our object, & that societies should be pledged up to
the cause - It was put & refused for a collection - I then
made another speech, & Mrs. Perkins really came out quite
(being on my side entirely) & said she wished to have the ladies
move to be fully known on the subject & would put the vote
again & requested all that were in favor of a collection to
rise. all rose with the exception of M. Perkins, A. Maynard
J. Stetson & myself. They all came up to the desk & joined in their
annual subscription & tax - & were their shelling who did not
contribute to the fair last year. In that it was I think the
most interesting meeting we have had - one member Mrs.
Maynard from the creek really came forward & moved a
vote of thanks to the officers for their interest in the
cause the present year - only think, I was surprised. Whether
admitted almost dumb. & Mrs. Davis Keller I must ap-
pologize for I am tired out & out. I will fill the sheet tomorrow.
Any day afternoon 28 much has occurred to prevent my finishing
this letter as I intended when I left writing Monday afternoon.
I have had a horrid cold for a day or two, & could not hold
up my head. Thursday morning your father went to Boston &
the evening before I had to write there - then I meant to have
written this evening, but I went up to stay with your mother.
as your father staid the night - It was Wednesday morning he went.
For yesterday was Thursday, & I attended the funeral of Peter White.
You might have before now left that we had come from New York

with us at her father's - she has been feeling ever since &
died Monday evening - her complaint consumption - she did not give up
her principles, mind but little, but retained her senses to the very
last. Mr Phillips & I went to see her, she would not
talk with him, nor my but little to any one - Her poor infidel
husband has not been here during her sickness or was he at her
funeral - she has left a babe 10 months old. They were having a great
funeral. People at her funeral were much overcome with the facts.
Her mother received calm. I clearly saw that she was out. Her mother
looked in much affliction. I will now tell you a little about Mr
Hitch's lecture, for my sheet fills up above. He came 18 of October
in the evening - Mr Hilfield wrote to him, & invited her to her house.
he answered it & said he would care if his expenses could be paid
otherwise he would not - it was an exceedingly plain letter. The afternoon
we expected him he called for me to come there, I went & we
looked for him in vain. at nearly dark I got home, no ball
any - no lecturer came - no meeting house lighted, & for an
hour I felt as if I should fly - but I must pass over
all about that & get the lecturer here & you to meeting. He
rode to Loring house - back called on Mr Cornell, put his on Mr
Cornell's chair, & came over, put it up at 9 o'clock, & both helped
up to the Dr, took her & proceeded to the meeting house, Mr Perkins
did not return then from Mr Giles funeral. Mr Cornell made the
prayer, and a real abolitionist prayer it was, came out through
prayer for both the society in the place, in that did well. Then
Mr Hilfield delivered his address, it was fine, notwithstanding his
head upon adultery & fornication, was the most plain I ever
even read. there was but very few present compared with what has
been at any other lecture we have had. It is said it was because that
it was an address before the society exclusively, but I do not believe it
was any such thing, no doubt if it had been on a Sabbath evening, there
would have been as many as usual. There was a collection, amounting
to \$1,500 cents, which was more in proportion than when Stanton was
here, brother Britton asked \$2,500, which Mrs Hilfield paid on the spot.
The Treasurer not being present. I have heard his plainness of speech
in regard to the 5th commandment was not well received, their
feelings of delicacy were much outraged especially the men women
stood it better. I am in hopes Mr Cornell will come out it during
as he did here - he was a classmate of brother Britton. I was very
very that the meeting was so slim, but not sorry we had it.
notices were sent & read at South Weymouth & North, one
notices to send to Mr Storrs, but no one that it was offered to
take it to Mr Storrs would do it - how great their fear of
him is. - Mr Matthews preached here last Sabbath - kept off the
subject - never mentioned there was a slave in the land. after meet-
ing he had to read an Anti-Slavery notice of a meeting the next
evening in the vestry to discuss the following question "in what it be for
the benefit of the slaveholder to manumit his slaves." I thought
him a little moved when he read it - it did me much good.
They held the meeting but I have not heard how it came out.
I see nothing of the thing - I did meet him, once some years
ago in the street, & he seemed more embarrassed but otherwise just
as ever. I have been at Dixbury since you have been away - went
of a Sunday with Sam & returned Wednesday - He went down to have
an auction to sell his furniture. It was all sold - went very low.

This being so

Weymouth
Massachusetts 10
October 3rd
1836
Chas Deane Weston.
Rev Nathaniel West
New Bedford.

Ms. A. 9. 2. 8 p. 65